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Security Information

16 September 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: ACTING CHIEF, PSYCHOLOGICAL STAFF DIVISION

SUBJECT : Psychiatric Warfare

1. The author of this plan recommends the use of psychiatric warfare as a refined weapon of psychological warfare.

2. The effectiveness of this plan is influenced to a considerable degree by the vulnerabilities of the target under discussion and the capabilities of the various forces developed to accomplish the objective.

3. The author acknowledges with a series of excellent questions that a considerable amount of information is necessary regarding the peoples of Russia, the conditions which surround their minds and their probably reactions to various stimuli. There is a requirement for a compilation of accurate data on all of the psychological climates which prevail in the various geographic areas of USSR. The magnitude of this problem is as enormous and as difficult as if a similar requirement were made for a composite study of the American peoples. The procurement of this data would point up the vulnerabilities of the target area.

4. Developing any measure of capability under the terms of reference of this plan is extremely difficult, if not impractical. There is no recognized psychiatric technique known in this country at the present time which is capable of destroying individual or group personalities. Laboratory cases may be developed, but laboratory conditions would hardly ever prevail in the field under remote control conditions. In another part of the plan, the author suggests a plan of operation for agents in the field. Current conditions in a police state prevent such operations. There is no means for the application of psychiatric warfare in a police state.

5. It is recommended that we concentrate our effort on those psychological warfare activities which have a reasonable prospect of bringing early favorable results and that we avoid those peripheral activities and approaches which are tangential to our main effort.

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